

Ser. No. 09/695,562

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Response to Action of 18 December 2002

Atty Docket 117163-4

Amendments to the Claims

1. (previously cancelled)
2. (previously amended) The stent as set forth in claim 17 wherein the coating has a non-uniform thickness.
3. (previously amended) A stent as set forth in claim 2 wherein the coating is completely missing at least one location on the surface of the stent.
4. (previously amended) A stent as set forth in claim 3 wherein the coating is interrupted in a grid-like pattern.
5. (previously amended) A stent as set forth in claim 13 wherein the coating is provided in the form of coating islands on the surface of the stent.
6. (previously amended) A stent as set forth in claim 5 wherein the coating islands are of a substantially round configuration. *Cancelled*
7. (previously amended) The stent as set forth in claim 17 wherein the coating islands are all of substantially the same size.
8. (previously amended) A stent as set forth in claim 5 wherein the coating islands in regions involving a greater degree of local stretching of the stent surface upon stretching of the stent are arranged at a greater mutual spacing than in regions involving a lesser degree of local stretching of the stent surface. *Cancelled*
9. (previously amended) A stent as set forth in claim 5 wherein the coating islands in regions involving a greater degree of local stretching of the stent surface upon stretching of the stent are smaller than in regions involving a lesser degree of local stretching of the stent surface.

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10. (cancelled)

11. (previously amended) The stent as set forth in claim 17 wherein the coating comprises biocompatible material.

12. (cancelled)

13. (previously added) A stent having a surface with a coating, characterised in that the coating is formed irregularly on the surface.

14. (previously amended) The stent as set forth in claim 18 wherein the coating islands are all of substantially the same size.

15. (previously added) A stent as set forth in claim 6 wherein the coating islands in regions involving a greater degree of local stretching of the stent surface upon stretching of the stent are arranged at a greater mutual spacing than in regions involving a lesser degree of local stretching of the stent surface.

16. (previously added) A stent as set forth in claim 6 wherein the coating islands in regions involving a greater degree of local stretching of the stent surface upon stretching of the stent are smaller than in regions involving a lesser degree of local stretching of the stent surface.

17. (currently amended) A stent having a surface with a non-uniform ~~an irregular~~ coating formed thereon,

wherein the non-uniform ~~irregular~~ coating comprises coating islands,

wherein the coating islands are substantially round,

wherein the spacing of the coating islands are dependent upon the degree of local stretching ^{during?} prior to radial expansion, and

wherein the coating islands are arranged at a greater spacing in regions involving a greater degree of local stretching of the stent surface upon stretching of the stent than in regions involving a lesser degree of local stretching of the stent surface.

Sound
Conducing
prior to radial
expansion

Where did this
come from?

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18. (currently amended) A stent having a surface with a non-uniform ~~an irregular~~ coating formed thereon,

wherein the non-uniform ~~irregular~~ coating comprises coating islands,

wherein the coating islands are substantially round,

wherein the spacing of the coating islands are dependent upon the degree of local stretching prior to radial expansion, and

wherein the coating islands are smaller in regions involving a greater degree of local stretching of the stent surface upon stretching of the stent than in regions involving a lesser degree of local stretching of the stent surface.

all new

19. (cancelled)

20. (previously added) The stent as set forth in claim 18 wherein the coating has an non-uniform thickness.

21. (previously added) The stent as set forth in claim 20 wherein the coating is completely missing in at least one location on the surface of the stent.

22. (previously added) The stent as set forth in claim 21 wherein the coating is interrupted in a patterned configuration.

23. (previously added) The stent as set forth in claim 18 wherein the coating comprises biocompatible material.

24. (cancelled)

25. (cancelled)